



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Philadelphia District

PROJECT FACT SHEET
CHRISTINA RIVER WATERSHED,
DE, PA & MD

March 2005

CONGRESSIONAL INFO: Sen. Biden, DE; Sen. Carper, DE; Rep. Castle, DE-AL; Sen. Specter, PA; Sen. Santorum, PA; Rep. Weldon, PA-7; Rep. Pitts, PA-16; Sen. Sarbanes, MD; Sen. Mikulski, MD; Rep. Gilchrest MD-1.

AUTHORITY: The Authority for this study is Senate Committee on Environmental and Public Works Resolution, dated October 29, 1997.

LOCATION: The Christina River watershed is located in New Castle County in Delaware; Delaware, Chester and Lancaster Counties in Pennsylvania; and Cecil County in Maryland, and drains an approximate area of 565 square miles.

STUDY/PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Christina River Watershed has been heavily urbanized since the mid-nineteenth century and many wetland areas were filled in for industrial purposes. A Reconnaissance Study was initiated in the January 2002; its purpose was to assess the Federal interest for potential feasibility studies in the future. To help speed up the process, due to a high level of public interest an Expedited Reconnaissance Study was completed in accordance with Section 905(b) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 1986 in August 2002. The 905(b) Study identified impaired areas of the watershed and recommended potential solutions for each, including but not limited to ecosystem restoration, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, flood damage reduction, and allied purposes. Based on this study, it was determined that the primary problems within the Christina River Watershed include flood damage, poor quality aquatic habitat, aquatic habitat degradation, providing public access to the streams and dedicated greenway corridors, acquiring critical lands, cleaning up the watershed, establishing an urban wildlife refuge and rejuvenating the Wilmington Delaware waterfront. . Various solutions exist to address these problems and will be considered in depth during feasibility investigations. For example, riparian buffer enhancement, stream bank stabilization, natural stream channel restoration, construction of fish passages, wetland creation and restoration, and structural flood damage reduction measures will be considered for specific locations within the watershed. The Feasibility Cost Share Agreement has been negotiated with the local sponsor Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and is awaiting signature by both parties.

CHRISTINA RIVER WATERSHED *(continued)*

STUDY/PROJECT STATUS: FY 2002 tasks included completion of the Section 905(b) (WRDA 86) analysis. FY03 and FY04 funding were used to develop a plan of study and cost sharing agreement for a smaller study within the Christina Watershed involving Red Clay and White Creeks Basin in Delaware. FY05 funds will be utilized to execute the Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement and initiate the Feasibility Study on Red Clay Creek.

FINANCIAL DATA:

<u>WORK ITEMS</u>	<u>FY 2003</u>	<u>FY 2004</u>	<u>FY 2005</u>		<u>FY 2006</u>
Federal	\$50,000	\$34,000	\$75,000	\$0	President's Budget
Non-Federal	\$0	\$0	\$75,000		
TOTAL	\$50,000	\$34,000	\$150,000		

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS: An existing conditions environmental investigation was completed and summarized as part of the expedited reconnaissance study's Section 905(b) (WRDA 86) analysis.

SPONSOR: The non-Federal sponsor for the feasibility phase is the Delaware Department of Natural Resource and Environmental Control (DNREC).

CRITICAL ISSUES: Project is not in the President's FY 2006 budget.

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